#1

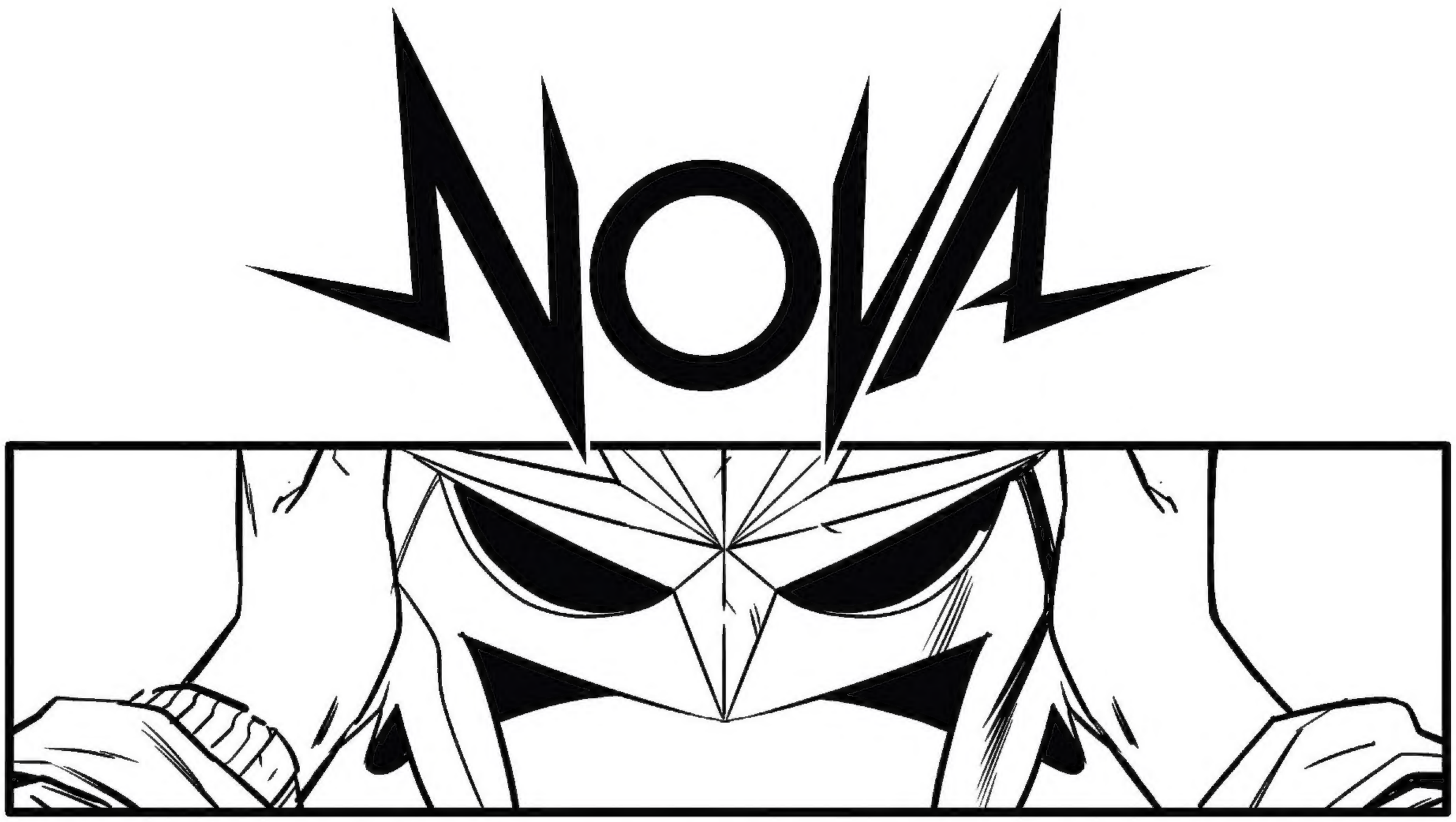
NOW!

NOVA®

#1

LOVENESS
PÉREZ
HERRING

MARVEL



AS A HIGH SCHOOLER, RICHARD RIDER WAS DRAFTED INTO THE INTERGALACTIC PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE CALLED THE NOVA CORPS. AFTER A DEVASTATING ATTACK BY ANNIHILUS WIPED OUT ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CORPS, RICHARD HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PATROL THE GALAXY ALONE FOR YEARS. HE VALIANTLY DEFENDED IT FROM EVIL UNTIL HE MET HIS UNTIMELY END AT THE HANDS OF THANOS IN A PARALLEL DIMENSION CALLED THE CANCERVERSE. BUT, HE MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED ON HIS MOTHER'S DOORSTEP ALIVE AND WELL, THOUGH HE HAS NO IDEA HOW OR WHY.

15-YEAR-OLD SAM ALEXANDER'S FATHER WAS A NOVA AS WELL, SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE ELITE BLACK NOVA UNIT. WITH MORE POWERFUL HELMETS THAN THE REST OF THE CORPS, THE BLACK NOVAS WERE ONLY SENT ON THE MOST DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENTS. BUT WHEN HIS FATHER WENT MISSING IT WAS UP TO SAM TO LOOK AFTER HIS MOTHER, HIS SISTER, AND HIS PLANET BY TAKING UP THE MANTLE AND BECOMING THE LAST AND ONLY NOVA.

FOR A TIME.

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When...?

A few months ago.

I think some people just go when they're ready.

And your father was.

I know. But you can't feel guilty about that.

He would have been so happy to know you came back, Richie.

You're *home.*

I'm sorry... I wish I could've been here...

You're *safe...*

...and everything's going to be *fine.*

Richie?

Is everything okay?

Yeah, fine.

Sorry--doing the resurrection thing really takes it out of you.

Wait. Mom...

My helmet...who gave it to you?

AAAAAHHHHH!

STAY AND FIGHT, YOU COWARD!

Shut up!

ZRAK

You said you needed some help! SOME!

You didn't say you were *infested* with *SIDRI!*

How'd this even *happen?*

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

Why'd you even ask *me* for help? We're not friends!

...EVERYONE ELSE SAID NO. THEY FEAR EGO'S POWER.

Okay-- stuff like *that* is why people hate you!

Screw this.

I'm not dying on a planet with a goatee!

ZRAK

Yeah! YOU LIKE THA--?

Oh, boy...

AUUURGH. YOU ARE FAILING EGO!

ZRAP

Shut up, Goatee Planet!

IT IS A *BEARD!*

PLOIK

Wait... *Planet.*

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DO NOT FLEE EGO!

Don't worry. I got this idea from the dinosaurs...

Sorry, dinosaurs.

NO, NO, NO! STOP--

KA-BOOM

THAT WAS A BAD PLAN.

I can't wait until you to get global warming.

BEEP BEE BEEP BEEP BEE

CRAP.

BEEP BEE—

SWIPE

Which way is Arizona from here?

WHAT IS ARIZONA?

Don't worry about it.

EGO HAS A HEADACHE NOW.

See ya, Beardo!

NOM NOM NOM NOM NOM

THE THING'S MEGA CRUNCH

¡Hola!

¡AYYYY, SAMMY!

¿Dónde has estado?

COSMIC ZIP

Sorry!

What?

Fought some aliens. Threw an asteroid into a talking beard planet. Fun day.

Cool!

It was! Love you! Gotta go!

NOM NOM NOM

Don't forget, tonight everyone is coming by *para el Dia de los Reyes*-- and I'm ***not*** cleaning up by myself!

What if Galactus attacks?

Tell him to wait!

And you've been in space for four days. Take a shower!

ZIP

Avengers don't have time to shower!

Okay, technically, I'm not an Avenger anymore.

I quit. Ms. Marvel, Spider-Man, and I. All three of us did.

...They didn't fire us. We quit.

ve a Carefree Chris

It's fine. I'm fine. I'm totally fi--

Gah! Birds!

BOOT

...I'm fine.

Who needs The Avengers? We're the Champions now.

I'm young. I'm a super hero.

I went to space and fought aliens before breakfast.

Life's great.

Now for a quick change while no one's looking and--

Oh, God, no...

AUGH!

SNRK

No pants, but you remembered your hat? =snicker= Nice one.

No.

No no no. No!

Blake! *Blake!* I need your pants!

What? I need my pants.

I don't just carry spare pants around, man...

Just fly off and get some.

I forgot I wasn't wearing anything under my helmet! I need *PANTS!*

No time! This'll be the third time I'm late this month-- I can't be late again or Principal Philbin said he'd suspend me!

I mean, I've got these gym clothes, but I haven't washed them in, like, four months--

Just give them to me!

Uhmmm...

...are you okay?

I have pants...!

What?

...Pants. I, uh, usually... have pants. On.

I forgot to wear pants today.

Okay.

Thaaaaaaaat was bad.

Great. Thanks.

You REALLY sucked at that!

Got it.

I mean you REALLLLLY --

GIVE ME THE PANTS.

You were pretty much butt naked in front of the ***new girl*** and ***everyone!*** Like that nightmare, but it actually happened!

Thanks.

It's like I could see his heart getting kicked in the *cojones.*

My heart doesn't have *cojones*

You can still save it. Easy.

How?

By telling her you're Nova!

What?! No way. I can't do that.

Why not?

Super heroes don't... do that.

Why?

They... just don't.

Yeah, but why?

They don't!

That's so messed up! I can't just tell girls I'm a super hero so they'll like me.

Yeah, Tony Stark ***never*** does that...

I'm not Tony Stark!

"Hey. What's up? I'm an Avenger." ***Do it.***

Technically, I'm not an Avenger anym--

Oh, right. You got fired.

No, I ***quit!*** We're the ***Champions*** now!

Nobody cares. ***Doooooo*** it!

Okay. Just say hi.

People say hi all the time.

Talking to girls is easy.

What's easier than talking to girls?

H--

BE MINE

Sonnets

Hi.

It's *us*.

Every bad guy.

Be *our* girlfriend.

NOT TODAY!

This. Beating up bad guys is so much easier than talking to girls.

I LUV U

Wow. You're so confident.

You probably talk to girls all the time.

I do!

I'm very comfortable around girls!

Hey...

POOF

--Hello?

Hi.

I... found pants.

I have pants now.

OH, GOD, he sucks so bad!

EVERYTHINGYOUSAYIS BADYOUSMELLTERRIBLE EVERYONEHATESYOU ESPECIALLYHERANDTHEY AREALLCORRECTBECAUSE YOUSMELLBADANDDON'T DE

I'm Sam.

Lina.

Hi, Lisa.

Lina.

YOUGOTHERNAME WRONGNOWYOUWILL DIEALONEANDYOU WILLDESERVEIT

Lina. Sorry. New here?

Yeah.

Well... if you need someone to show you aro--

BWARP

AHHHH. What is that?

I don't know.

It's coming from your bag!

Oh...OH!

BWARP

Uh, well, if you need someone to show you ar--

What?

Nothing! Bye!

WHAT *IS* this?

BWARP

Did I break you?

Did Ego give me, like, a space-virus?

NOVA SIGNAL DETECTED

Huh --

I thought I was the last Nova?

Unless...

DAD!

Hey, man! I need my gym clothes back!

Sorry. Gotta go.

Avengers stuff?

Champions stuff!

Yeah, not as cool. Sorry you got kicked out.

We *quit!* And we're *cool!*

I used to leap off this swing.

High as I could go.

Wanted to fly so bad.

Heh, broke both legs before kindergarten.

But I wouldn't quit.

I couldn't help myself.

ZIP

Even when it hurt.

Wow.

I missed this.

Forgot how beautiful--

AUUUGGHH--

NEXT: GOING KNOWHERE

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Greetings and salutations, cosmonauts!

NOVA Editor Devin Lewis here, reporting to you live and in-print from Marvel Comics HQ in the heart of New York City!

As I write this, the Marvel offices are abuzz with excitement about the latest incarnation of MARVEL NOW, and I myself couldn't be more excited that NOVA is among the titles featured in the initiative.

NOVA has always had a special place in my heart. The Gerry Duggan/David Baldeon run was one of the first books I ever got to work on as an Assistant Editor, and I couldn't help but feel a little bit of kinship with the series' bumbling hero, Sam Alexander. Sam's always one my first recommendations to my friends looking to get into comics. He's a decent, if a little dumb, kid trying to do the right thing, and I think we can all relate to that a little bit. I certainly can, at least.

Sam's been the only Nova in the galaxy for a while, but, as of this issue, that's not the case anymore. Like a conquering hero returning from war, Richard Rider has returned to the Marvel Universe! The idea of bringing Richard back has been one that we've toyed with for the better part of five years. After the events of ANNIHILATION, the mark Richard left on the Marvel Universe is undeniable, and it's great to have him alive, if not alive and well. As for HOW exactly Richard's mysterious resurrection took place, that's a question we'll have to save for another issue!

When we realized that we were going to be bringing Richard back from the dead, we really wanted to do it right. We're lucky in comics that our characters don't really age unless they're drawn to look a little bit older – that gives us opportunities to do incredible and spectacular things that are often times impossible in movies or television, one of which is bringing characters back from the great beyond, seemingly unaged and unharmed. We started seeding Rich's return months ago, in Sean Ryan and Cory Smith's great NOVA volume. In fact, Richard made his first full appearances in NOVA #10 and #11, so if you haven't read them, go grab a copy to see some of the groundwork they laid for this series. They're terrific!

With the groundwork laid by Sean and Cory, Rich was fully poised to make his grand, helmeted debut right here! From there, the challenge was picking a team to pick up where Sean and Cory left off.

Enter Jeff Loveness, Ramón Pérez, and Ian Herring.

Jeff and Ramón cowrote this volume, and neither of them are strangers to the Marvel Universe. Jeff comes to us from the world of television, and is a writer on Jimmy Kimmel Live!. His first foray into the Marvel Universe was a six-issue GROOT series that ran during last year's epic SECRET WARS event. Jeff's GROOT story was heartfelt, sincere, and crammed full of action – everything great about super hero comics.

Ramón's a comics veteran, as well, with an inspired run on ALL-NEW HAWKEYE under his belt. Not only were we fortunate enough to get Ramón on-board as a co-writer and interior artist, he's also responsible for our amazing covers! His dynamic panel designs and drawing style always bring a unique sensibility to the story he's working on, and together he and Jeff have spun a Cosmic Marvel yarn that any Marvel fan can enjoy – and it only gets better from here! Trust me, I've read the scripts.

The final piece of the puzzle was Ian Herring, one of the best colorists in the biz whose work you've seen in such books as MS. MARVEL and SILK. Returning NOVA letterer Albert Deschesne rounded out the team.

Together, the four of them have created one of my favorite MARVEL NOW titles, and since you're reading this page, you must agree! Right?! Either way, let us know how we're doing at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM!

Over and out!
Devin
@edevinlewis

NEXT:

ZONE